



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PENICILLIN ALLERGY DAY

- WHEREAS: Penicillin is the most commonly reported drug allergy, as 10 percent of all U.S. patients and more than 1 million Georgia citizens have reportedly experienced an allergic reaction to a penicillin-class antibiotic; and
- WHEREAS: Penicillin allergy history is often inaccurate, as 90 percent of patients and 925,000 Georgia citizens reporting a penicillin allergy have been misdiagnosed; and
- WHEREAS: The inaccurate diagnosis of penicillin allergy can adversely impact medical costs for both patients and health care systems. In the hospital setting, a reported penicillin allergy is associated with 10 percent more hospital days, 30 percent higher incidences of VRE infections, 23 percent higher incidences of C. difficile infections, and 14 percent higher incidences of MRSA infections; and
- WHEREAS: Patients reporting a penicillin allergy may often require the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, resulting in 63 percent higher antibiotic costs; and
- WHEREAS: The use of broad-spectrum antibiotics to treat patients reporting a penicillin allergy may lead to an increased risk of antibiotic resistance and suboptimal antibiotic therapy; and
- WHEREAS: Penicillin Allergy Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of penicillin allergies and false penicillin allergy diagnoses, while encouraging penicillin allergy skin testing to decrease the number of inaccurate diagnoses; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2017, as PENICILLIN ALLERGY DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF